

REMARKS

The foregoing claim amendment amends claims 12-14, and adds claims 17-19. Pending in the application are claims 1, 7-8, 11-14 and 17-19, of which claims 1 and 7 are independent. The following comments address all stated grounds for rejection and place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance.

Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 7, 8 and 11 are indicated to recite patentable subject matter.

Claim Objections

Claims 12-14 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. In the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants amend claims 12-14 to remove redundant limitations and to further limit the subject matter of a base or intermediate claim. Support for the claim amendment can be found in the original claims and specification of the present application. No new matter is added. In light of the foregoing claim amendments, Applicants submit that the foregoing amendment places the claims in proper dependent form. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objection to claims 12-14.

New Claims

Applicants add new claims 17-19 to depend from claim 1 directly or indirectly. Claim 17 is added to recite that the amount of the cathode gas is increased to a target amount of the cathode gas at an end of the transition period. Claim 18 is added to recite that if the amount of the cathode gas is increased to the target amount of the cathode gas, the pressure control valve is controlled based on a feedback pressure of the cathode gas so that the pressure of the cathode gas reaches a target pressure of the cathode gas. Support for the claim amendment can be found in Figures 4 and 5 and corresponding descriptions in the specification. No new matter is added. Claim 19 is added to recite that a response of the compressor is slower than a response of the

pressure control valve. Support for the claim amendment can be found in previously presented claim 12 and descriptions in the specification. No new matter is added.


Claims 17-19 depend on claim 1 and incorporate the patentable feature of claim 1. As such, Applicants submit that claims 17-19 are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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